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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0949/72  
9 August 1972



Sabata, Cerny and Others Found Guilty in Brno

Dr. Jaroslav Sabata, the leading theoretician and erstwhile party secretary of the city committee in Brno, and Alfred Cerny, the former regional secretary of South Moravia, were found "guilty of the criminal act of subversion" on 8 August. They and five others were convicted according to paragraph 98 of the penal code in the eighth trial since 17 July; this brings the number of people



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sentenced so far to 38. Sabata received a six and one-half year term; Cerny got three years; and the other five landed stints ranging from eighteen months to five years.

Six of the seven convicted are university graduates, thus lending credence to the international press charge that the trials have mostly prosecuted the intelligentsia who helped prepare the way for Dubcek's reforms. Leading international dailies have scored the Prague regime for pursuing the trials but the Czechoslovak press has been steadfast in disclaiming prosecution of its citizens for their privately held political opinions. Czechoslovak press recriminations have been fierce.

Sabata and Cerny may be the last prominent liberals to find themselves in the docket, but the possibility cannot be dismissed that further subversion trials will continue against lesser figures in weeks to come. Journalists Jiri Hochman and Ladimir Nepras had their trials postponed until September and both have been temporarily released because of serious illness. Hochman has tuberculosis and the aftereffects of a recently suffered stroke; Nepras has sclerosis. Party leader Husak, who has recently returned from vacation in the USSR may, therefore, use the peg of ill health to cancel these trials and end the series.

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